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**MT Legislature—Joint Committee on Health and Human Services**  
**RE: HB2-DPHHS-Children's Mental Health Bureau Budget**

Representative Ron Ehli, Chairman:

I am Dee Incoronato from Bigfork. I am a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation Montana native raised to believe community service is a necessity as there are problems and needs that belong to every member of the community and if they aren't solved, they ultimately impact everyone. I have served on the Intermountain Board of Directors for 10+ years and am Past Board President. I also served two terms on the Bigfork School Board as a Trustee. In addition to being a longtime business owner, I was a college professor for 15 years and am currently working on a doctorate.

I am representing Intermountain's \*statewide Board of Directors. Intermountain has been providing care and services to children and families for over 100 years. When I began on the board 10 years ago, Intermountain served 50 children a day in 3 programs. Today, we serve 700+ children and families a day in 11 programs across the state. Services provided currently range from Residential to Outpatient Community Based services. Let me provide you with a few relevant facts:

- Intermountain employs over 200 staff in order to provide these services, with a payroll of \$9 million.
- In 2012 we served over 1000 children and their families for the year in many communities across the state.
- There is an ever rising need for services in children's mental health and Intermountain provides many of these critical services that benefit the lives of children and families with measurable impactful outcomes.
- There has been a great need to expand these services and the Flathead Valley is one such area that we are now providing much needed services. We, as a Board, took incredible risk and cost to expand these services in an area where there was both great need and in an area with a hard hit economic downturn.
- Of Intermountain's \$11 million budget, we must raise \$2.5 million through fundraising efforts. That is where the Board of Directors steps in and helps with these efforts along with MANY loyal supporters across the state who want to see both Intermountain and our state government be successful.
- Intermountain struggles with the budget crunch year after year and the continual demand to increase fundraising.



- Intermountain receives flat or shrinking reimbursements from the government.
- Intermountain must take on the costs of ever-changing regulations.
- There is grueling pressure for volunteers, such as myself, our board, and our MANY loyal supporters, to help raise these funds to cover the rising costs in a rough Montana economy because of the flat or shrinking reimbursements and the costs of ever changing regulations.

We ask that you, at minimum, include Governor Bullock's provider rate increase proposed in his budget, and if possible, increase this to come closer to making the provider rates whole.

Thank you for your time and dedicated work this session.

Dee Incoronato  
Intermountain Board Member/Past President

\*Intermountain Board of Director Roster:

Frank Cannon, Helena  
Matthew Dale, Helena  
Kori Dee, Helena  
Harley Harris, Helena  
Mike Hudson, Hamilton  
Dee Incoronato, Bigfork  
Rev. Marianne Niesen, Helena  
Elder Don Patterson, Bigfork  
Dr. Bill Reynolds, Missoula  
Heather Ripplinger, Bozeman  
Pam Schapper, Whitefish  
Nancy Trudell, Helena  
John Watson, Great Falls  
Betsy Wilcox, Missoula  
Rev. Cathy Barker, Helena  
Charles Coutts, Cut Bank  
Rev. John Daniels, Missoula  
Rev. George Goodrich, Bozeman